WILLIAM DENTON MOULTON

Son of Thomas and Sarah Denton Moulton, was born in Irchester, North Hamptonshire, England 17 July 1843. His parents and family joined the Church in England in 1855, and left immediately for America. A brother, Charles Alma was born on the ship, "Thornton", while it still lay in dock. After a six weeks trip by water, the family arrived in New York Harbor 14 June 1856, and embarked by railroad for winter quarters, 26 June 1856 they went to Iowa City, and then across the plains in a handcard company, with Captain James G. Willeyas Captain, leaving 15 July 1856. There were 120 handcarts, six wagons, 500 people, of which 66 died on the journey to Salt Lake, Utah. The early approach of winter or cold weather, in Utah, awoke fears for the safety of the immigrants, and at once relief parties were sent out meet them. Scores of brave men, taking wagons loaded with clothing, bedding and provisions went to rescue their unfortunate fellows, struggling through deep snows and piercing winds along the Platte and Sweetwater. One brother James Heber had his fingers on his left hand so badly frozen, they had to amputate them on arrival at Salt Lake. He was only eight years old. William was thirteen years old now. But nothing ever shook the faith or courage of this family, in a desire to get to Utah. There were three brothers and four sisters besides himself. Had not help come from President Brigham Young, the entire company would have perished. They arrived in Salt Lake 9 November 1856. The family moved to Provo, where they lived until 1860 when they moved to Heber, Wasatch Company, Utah. There were only nine families when they arrived there. Three more brothers were added to the family. After growing to manhood amid the struggles of Pioneer life, he became a member of the Black-Hawk Army, who so bravely protected the homes of their loved ones, as the Indians were becoming numerous and a great menace to the community, stealing their horses and cattle.

When Father was 22, he married Mary LaVina Lee, a pioneer of 1863 with courage and faith in the Gospel. They were married 24 July 1865 at Heber, Utah by Joseph S. Murdock. Three years later on 15 December 1868 they went to the Endowment house to be sealed for time and all eternity. In June 1868 he with many others went to Florance, Nebraska with ox teams and wagons to meet the immigrants. The letters he wrote his wife while they were waiting there six weeks were treasured by his wife and kept and are now 88 years old (April 1956) and are in possession of his daughter Bertha E. Bowman of Blackfoot, Idaho. In them are many valuable items of history, of harships and joys of deaths and births. He seen the last rails laid on the Platte railroad bridge, and also see the first Railroad train go over it on 15 July 1868. There were 2400 immigrants coming that year and it was his and his companions fate to be the last train out that year. Their Company brought 700 Danish from Denmark. The yearafter his return, 1869, the crops failed and living conditions were so bad, he went to cut ties for the Union Pacific Railroad, which was slowly winding its way Westward. Their first home was a little log cabin.

They moved from Heber, Utah to a large ranch which he bought. A temporary branch of the church was effected and he was put in as presiding Elder. The beef and milk contract was secured by him from the Ontario Mine at Park, Utah about five miles from his ranch. He built up a prosperous business. He was a great influence for good whereever he lived. After they had been married seven years, and had had no children, he married Mary Ann Davis. Both wives had five children each, each had a son die young. Both families lived in the same house and ate at the same table. The children were brought up as one family.

On 14 June 1883, William Denton died, being only 40 years of age of typhoid pneumonia. He had lived a full and abundant life and accomplished a great work both in church and vivic affairs. He died at Moultonville, Utah and was buried at Heber.

Utah. Left to mourn his passing two wives, 8 children, Father, Mother, two sisters, five brothers and was missed and mourned by all the community.

Was a kind son to his parents, a loving brother, and affectionate husband and father. Kind to the widows and orphans, and many a poor family have received help from him.

P.S. I have been told many times by the Dear Old Pioneers that if I ever expected to meet my father in heaven, I would have to live a wonderful life, as he was that kind of man.

Bertha E. Bowman
29 April 1942